

氏名	紀司 かおり		
学位の種類	博士 (学術)		
学位記番号	博甲第 7880 号		
学位授与年月	平成 28 年 3 月 25 日		
学位授与の要件	学位規則第 4 条第 1 項該当		
審査研究科	人間総合科学研究科		
学位論文題目	Psychosocial Factors Associated with Recidivism among Male Japanese Criminals in Offender Rehabilitation Facilities (更生保護施設における元受刑者の再犯と 心理社会的要因との関連)		
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論文の内容の要旨

(目的)

The aims of this dissertation were to ascertain both socioeconomic and psychological factors predispose to recidivism and to propose necessary support measures to assist social reintegration for offenders held in offender rehabilitation facilities. The three studies verified the following particular hypotheses: (1) it was hypothesized that there would appear to be criminal thinking particularly associated with Japanese offenders; (2) it was hypothesized that certain criminological and psychosocial factors would be related to Japanese recidivists, particularly residents at halfway houses. (3) it was predicted that there would appear a gap in perception of issues and needs on the process of social reintegration between offenders and non-offenders or administrators.

(対象と方法)

Japanese men, who had been placed under parole/probationary supervision or released from prison, in halfway houses served as participants. Most of the participants were in the early stage of release from prison and would leave halfway houses within the stipulated period (about two to three months, ranging between days and one year) to reenter society. Selection criteria were (1) sentenced with either paying a fine or to at least six months in prison; (2) assigned to the prison's general population (i.e., not assigned to a medical prison or a separate unit for mentally disabled inmates); and (3) sufficient language proficiency to complete the interview and questionnaire survey in Japanese.

In Study 1, the final sample of 116 Japanese men participated in the study and completed anonymous self-administered questionnaires (valid response rate, 97.0%). In Study 2, the sample population consisted of 116 men held in offender rehabilitation facilities. Twenty residents were excluded because they had committed minor offenses and never received prison sentences. Therefore, data for 96 Japanese men were included in the final analyses (valid response rate, 80.6%). The participants completed anonymous self-administered questionnaires. In Study 3, six former prisoners participated in semi-structured interviews individually for approximately one hour. The interview was conducted to explore specific challenges and needs among former prisoners at facilities.

(結果)

Study 1 revealed four dimensions in the 17-item Japanese Criminal Thinking Inventory (JCTI). The four dimensions were consisted of the following criminal thinking patterns: Discontinuity, Cutoff, Self-Deception, and Cognitive Indolence. The study also demonstrated high internal consistency and validity of the JCTI.

In Study 2, having committed theft or drug-related crimes and sense of manageability had strong associations with recidivism. Study 3 revealed four issues participants had been facing: comparing the present self with the past self, awareness of personal issues, evaluation by others and by themselves, and fearing a loss of a framework. Stimulant users were more likely to struggle with complicated problems than non-drug offenders such as a distorted belief that there is no victim, an ambiguous way to cope with stressors despite of awareness of concrete triggers, and a lack of information regarding addiction treatment.

(考察)

The JCTI possesses an important implication for offender rehabilitation as it identifies specific criminal thinking patterns. It may be applied as part of a series of measurements to assess offender performance throughout their treatment process in the Japanese criminal justice system. Contrary to previous research that has emphasized social risk factors associated with recidivism, findings from Study 2 indicate that sense of

manageability, a psychological or intra-individual factor, has a strong association with recidivism. Practical interventions by level of manageability will thus mitigate recidivism risk and help offenders reenter society. Study 3 emphasizes the critical need for a “place” consisted of follow-up counseling and psychosocial assessment of each ex-offenders in social rehabilitation. Released prisoners face multiple challenges when they return society, including physical/mental problems, substance abuse, employment, and housing. Follow-up counseling based on psychosocial assessment after release from offender rehabilitation facilities will promote pro-social identity and desistance from future crime.

Besides follow-up counseling, this dissertation suggests that the current situation for Japanese offender rehabilitation requires comprehensive reentry interventions. Particularly, it is necessary to provide an intensive program to achieve stress coping skills in meticulous preparation for strengthening sense of manageability and surviving the desistance process throughout the stay at offender rehabilitation facilities and even after release from the facilities. Stimulants users especially need a constant intervention because addiction treatment is an ongoing process that requires counseling, lifestyle changes, and continuous guidance. Both an intensive group program and follow-up individual counseling enables to strengthen sense of manageability and eventually give residents confidence to desist from reoffending.

審査の結果の要旨

(批評)

欧米では元受刑者の再犯に関わる心理社会的要因について多くの研究が行われているが、我が国では殆どみられない。本研究は、更生保護施設で生活する元受刑者の男性を対象に、これらを初めて実証検討したものである。量的研究によってストレス対処力と犯罪種類が再犯に関係することを見出し、質的研究によって更生への具体的課題とニーズを明らかにして、更生途上の元受刑者に必要な社会復帰と再犯防止の具体的支援策を提示した極めて意義の大きい論文である。

平成 28 年 1 月 6 日、学位論文審査委員会において、審査委員全員出席のもと論文について説明を求め、関連事項について質疑応答を行い、最終試験を行った。その結果、審査委員全員が合格と判定した。

よって、著者は博士（学術）の学位を受けるのに十分な資格を有するものと認める。